BPAS NEW LEGAL AID || How to change your doctor. R.C

# Manchester FREE PRESS

Still 5p

THE NEWS YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO KNOW

Issue 24

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### NEWS


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### DAISY'S DIARY


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### AND LOTS MORE INSIDE

## Work with the homeless

Dear Free Press,

We are looking for a person to organise and work in a night shelter in Manchester with the help of another full-time worker and volunteers. The shelter will be for homeless single people who are excluded for various reasons from present provisions (eg hostels). It is hoped that premises in a former school at present used by Homeless In Manchester will accommodate the project. Initially the organiser will be involved in setting up the project with the help of a small group of H in M workers. Fund-raising will be part of this work When the shelter is actually operating, the organiser will be responsible for the day to day running of the project. This will include co-ordination of volunteers and night rota duties. It is hoped that the full-time worker will be able to help residents with various problems (eg obtaining social secutiry security payments, permanent accommodation etc.)

Payment will depend on the needs of the person selected. Accommodation could be provided at the shelter, but the organiser will not have to be resident.

Homesless in Manchester
19 Duncan Road,
Manchester M13

# FROM OUR READERS

## Päng gang

Dear friends*,

We make the good old german UPS-member PÄNG and since 1969 we always send copies of our paper to all members in the world. But therefore only few send their papers to Germany. We need this exchange, we need informations from the whole world, to inform our readers well. The editorial staff of PANG is an agricultural commune. We live 30 miles away from the Big City and what we do (except publishing) is working in our garden and the fields and cattle-breeding and researching many other areas. Another thing we do is building up a wild-life reserve for man (like earth peoples park usa). We like to have a live with as much fun, "health" and satisfaction

All is for the revolution
the pang-gang,
UPN- Volksverlag,
85 Nürnberg,
Kopernikusstr 4

*Original extracts from a letter from a bunch of friendly German freeps

## Bully for you, Baa Baa

Dear Free Press,

Your snide little piece in Issue 23 - implying that all Catholics would have sheepishly followed the dictates of the Bishop of Salford in regardin a candidate's attitude to abortion as the single completely exclusive criterion in judging which way to vote was a silly, naiv ill-informed and quite unworthy gaffe which often comes from such as the dyed-in-the-wool Orange faction in Ulster but is a little surprising to read in your columns.

You often protest with justification about individuals or groups being labelled and smeared by various establishment forces. Why be guilty of the same trick yourselves? What will be next? "Popes Under the Bed?"

Sheepishly yours,
Paul 'Baa Baa' Blackwell,
816 Wilmslow Road,
Didsbury, Mchr.

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LETTERS TO FREE PRESS SHOULD BE SENT TO 45 ASPINALL STREET MANCHESTER 14.


# IN THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN HOME

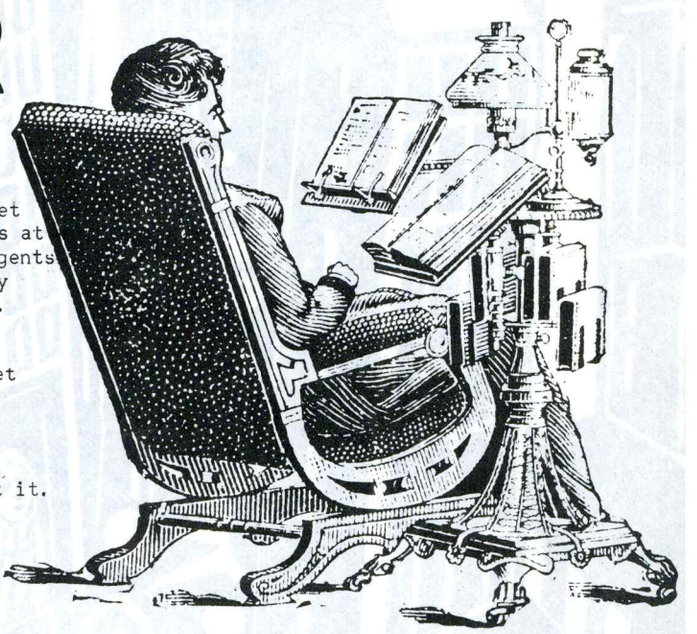
Yes folks, take advantage of this offer RIGHT NOW! Forget the queues at the newsagents the dreary trips and disappointing journeys. Get FREE PRESS direct from the makers and save LOTS OF MONEY!!! SUBSCRIBE NOW for only 95p and get a whole year's edition of FREEP sent to you under plain cover IN THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN HOME. Straighten those round shoulders, DO IT NOW and you'll never regret it.

Dear FREEP, please rush me hot off the press the next 12 issues

name

address

I enclose cheque/PO for 95p



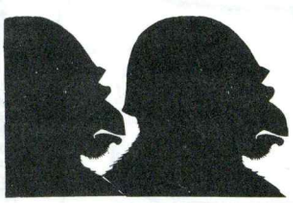
Beautiful and useful. For children or parents, home or office. The **HOLLOWAY BOOK-REST and DICTIONARY HOLDER** combines a Book-rest, Dictionary Holder, Lamp Stand and Table. **SAVES YOUR CHILDREN FROM THE UNGRACEFUL AND UNHEALTHFUL HABIT OF BENDING FORWARD WHEN READING OR STUDYING.**

Officials of the giant engineering union were more than a little embarrassed when Bill Roberts, one of their conveners in Bolton, stood in a ward by-election in April as a candidate for the National Front. Mr Roberts got 343 votes: just a bit better than the Liberal at the bottom of the poll.

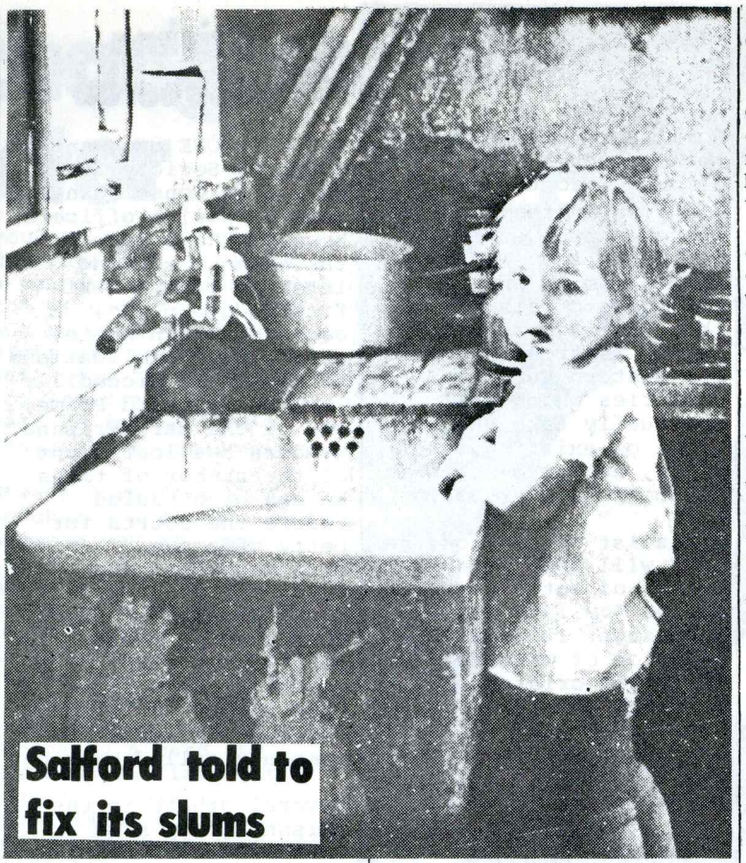
Kendals Italian Week included a model of the Trevi fountain in Rome, filled with water specially flown in for the occasion.

Hard-pressed teachers in Manchester who have to fight for money for new books and materials will be pleased to know that their chief education officer Fiske is getting three months paid leave to go on a jaunt to Australia, courtesy of the Australian government

The latest example of commercial insanity to hit women's magazines this summer comes from a firm called Nicholas Products and an ad agency called Hobson Bates. They are promoting a range of toilet tissues to be used after regular bog paper, because toilet paper, they say, is simply not enough. Bullshit.



**nuff said**



# Salford told to fix its slums

After being stipendary magistrate in Salford for 23 years, Leslie Walsh took a look in some of the rotting slums of Lower Broughton this month. Living as he does in the sururban seclusion of Urmston, overlooking the Mersey valley, Mr Walsh decided that he had to see for himself these house falling down with holes in the roofs- especially after he had been told by the council's solicitor that £283,346 had been spent on repairs since 1968. It was at that time that 1,697 houses in the area had been declared unfit for human habitation. But under the Housing Act of 1957, the council had put back demolition for 7 years. About seven hundred houses were stopped up or demolished and the rest, despite that princely sum of £283,346, deteriorated into one of the country's most infamous slums. After years of complaining to the council in vain, the residents of Lower Broughton decided to take the council to court under the Public Health Act.

They arrived on the afternoon of April 9 to hear the council solicitor Chris Clark trying to justify Salford's negligence. Mr Walsh had to threaten to clear the public gallery at one stage when Clark claimed that Salford had been a good landlord. The strength of his case was not helped when on two occasions he apologised for forgetting to bring in the right documents. Quoting from a government circular, Clark said that a local authority only had a duty to keep houses in a deferred demolition area up to an adequate standard of wind and weather proof.

Although this repair work should have been carried out during the past six years, it was not until this February that Salford started to do anything seriously about it. 268 complaints under the Public Health Act were lodged with the town hall and 88 residents took out summonses allegeing nuisance against the council. Under the Act a local authority can force a landlord to do necessary repairs. Since Salford was itself the landlord, the law was on the side of the residents. And Salford certainly moved quickly when it realised that it's dirty linen was about to be paraded in open court. All but about 20 of the 268 houses were inspected and work began on all but one of the houses named in the first batch of 11 summonses.

Having started the work Clark then argued for an adjournment of at least 28 days - by which time he obviously hoped that the court cases would be unnecessary. Mr Walsh chewed his cud for a while and ventured the opinion that it wouldn't make any difference if he made an order or not - the work would still be done. Eventually he decided to hear the first case of Joseph McNally of Johnson Street who said he had to take an umbrella when he went to the outside bog if it rained because there was a hole in the roof. The council surveyor, who had recently inspec ted the house, said he didn't see any hole. And so it was that Mr Walsh went into Lower Broughton to look at Mr McNally's bog.

He visited about half a dozen houses and admitted to residents that they were in a pretty bad state of repair. A week later Mr Walsh made an order compelling Salford to remedy the defects in Mr McNally's house within two months.

He adjourned the second case for three months to give the council time to do the work.

With two down and 86 to go, Salford will no doubt be working flat out to get the rest of the repairs done before the next case is heard. And in order to do this, they succeeded in getting another adjournment last week (April 23) for seven days on a point of law.

Clark argued that the council could house people in unfit houses under the deferred demolition probisions of the 58 Housing Act. But Walsh said that this did not give protection against action under the Public Health Act. Now, if the council appeal against that ruling, all the rest of the cases could be held up for 3 months.

# The heat's on in Hulme

AFTER lying dormant for nearly a year, the Hulme electricity row is back on the boil again - with 27 out of the 900 flats in the crescents cut off because of arrears.

The original causes of

Continued on page 7

## Ernest but not frank

Ernest Mandel, the Belgian economist who is secretary-general of the Trotskyist Fourth International refused to answer questions on Ireland during his press conference in Manchester on April 24. His refusal was disappointing because the International Marxist Group (British wing of the 4th International) has often supported the cause of the IRA in the past. Free's reporter was keen to hear the reason for this, but Mandel and his team of IMG companions, were adamant.

He feared misrepresentation by the Press which has falsely described the 4th I as a terrorist organisation. Understandably, he did not want to play into the hands of individuals such as Fred Sylvester, Manchester's only Tory MP, who has written an historic letter to the Home Secretary demanding to know why Mandel was allowed into the country.

Mandel used the press conference to explain his views that Western capitalism is in insoluble crisis and that "a new mass vanguard" is growing up in all Western European countries which will eventually take the place of existing trade union, social democratic and communist groups.

Socialist revolution, he said,will come as a result of actions such as the May 1968 upheavals in France. It is a question of waiting for the final crisis to come and then the 4th I will step in as the new leadership of the working class. In Britain, at any rate, he conceded that this is still a long way off,

The International Marxist Group has a national membership of less than 1,000.

## Squat success

THE SIX-WEEK squat for battered wives by Manchester Women's Aid Group in 18 Stockton Road, Chorlton, has finally ended in victory - but with no thanks to the council. The money to buy the house has been raised with a £4,500 cheque from a local woman who wants to remain anonymous. Several appeals to the council from the group - and eventually from the estate agents handling the house - failed to get any positive response. One letter from the group strangely "disappeared" without trace.

Then along comes another group called Shield who presented a report to the council showing the need for a home for battered wives. The council immediately jumped at the chance to help. The Shield house opens in the next 3 months.

The reason for the council's curious about turn may have something to do with the fact that Shield is run by a group of worthy and "respectable" social workers and that the Women's Aid Group has connections with the Manchester Women's Liberation movement.

## Krishna clobbered

NOT EVERYONE may want to join the Society for Christian Consciousness. Several police officers, however, have been taking an absorbing interest in the Hari Krishna group who, dressed all in white, offer their publications to people in Piccadilly Gardens. Richard Prime, one of the Hari Krishna members has lost count of the number of times he has been hauled before the courts for petty offences. With between 6 and 10 down, there are two more to go. Most of them are for routine obstruction but recently the police have thrown in 'trading without a licence' - commonly called hawking.

Several others in the Krishna group have been booked for similar offences but not to the same extent. At one court appearance Richard asked a boy in blue why he had not arrested him on previous occasions. The Pc relied that he wasn't on "hawking duties" that day. Richard has been acquitted on some occasions and conditionally discharged on most of the others : a sure sign that the whole police harrassment is a complete waste of time and money.

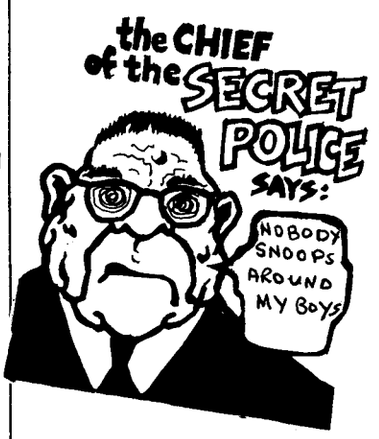
## MPs to move on?

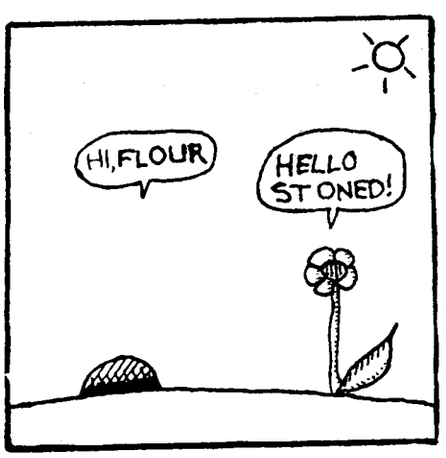
THE Labour group in Manchester may soon be looking for a new leader to replace Joe Jabus Dean. Since Dean won a seat at Westminster in Leeds, he has had little time to represent the interests of his constituents as well as running the city party machine. His resignation from the district council is expected shortly.

Frank Hatton, the group's other MP, is thinking of giving up his council seat for the same reason. The ranks of the Labour elder statesmen are likely to be further depleted if ex-Mayor Bill Downward decides to concentrate on his job as Lord Lieutenant of the Greater Manchester County.

## Betting

With Labour consolidating its position after local government reorganisation, none of them have so far made a move publically. But when they do the betting for a successor to Dean is currently on Norman Morris, chairman of the powerful finance committee and university lecturer. The Tories, led by the noble Bob Rodgers, are looking forward to a few by-elections to try and recover the bashing they got at the general election.



RAZZBERRY No 4 1974

# How to change your doctor

JILL has a GP who's unsympathetic to say the least. A mother of 3, she became pregnant again when her youngest child was 6 months old. She went to her GP to ask about abortion as her husband was ill and about to be admitted to hospital for a further operation. He had not been able to work for the past 12 months. Her GP, a father of 7, told her "she should sleep in a separate room and that sexual intercourse without the specific wish to create children was simply lust." Fortunately, Jill moved house and was able to transfer to another GP's list.

But it's not always that easy. If you move house into another area you are entitled to change your doctor. So far so good. But how do you know which practice to choose? It's a good idea to ask your neighbours which GP they have. Find out if he ( and it usually is) is sympathetic, good with kids, willing to do house visits etc. If it's an appointment system, check with a neighbour to see how long you have to wait to actually see the doctor. Some of the new stream-lined health centres can often only offer an appointment in a week's time.

## Serious

The Post Office has a list of local GPs. If you're really serious about getting the right GP for you, you can check the list in the Medical Directory which should be in the local reference library. The directory tells you each doctor's qualifications and special interests, the papers he has written etc. It will also tell you how many partners there are in the practice. You can see any doctor in a practice so this should increase your chances of finding a sympathetic one.

Needless to say, it's best to do all this before you get ill. If you are caught out, you can register merely as a temporary patient, on the grounds that you may not be staying in the district. The GP still gets paid for treating you, so don't let your self be forced into registering permanently.

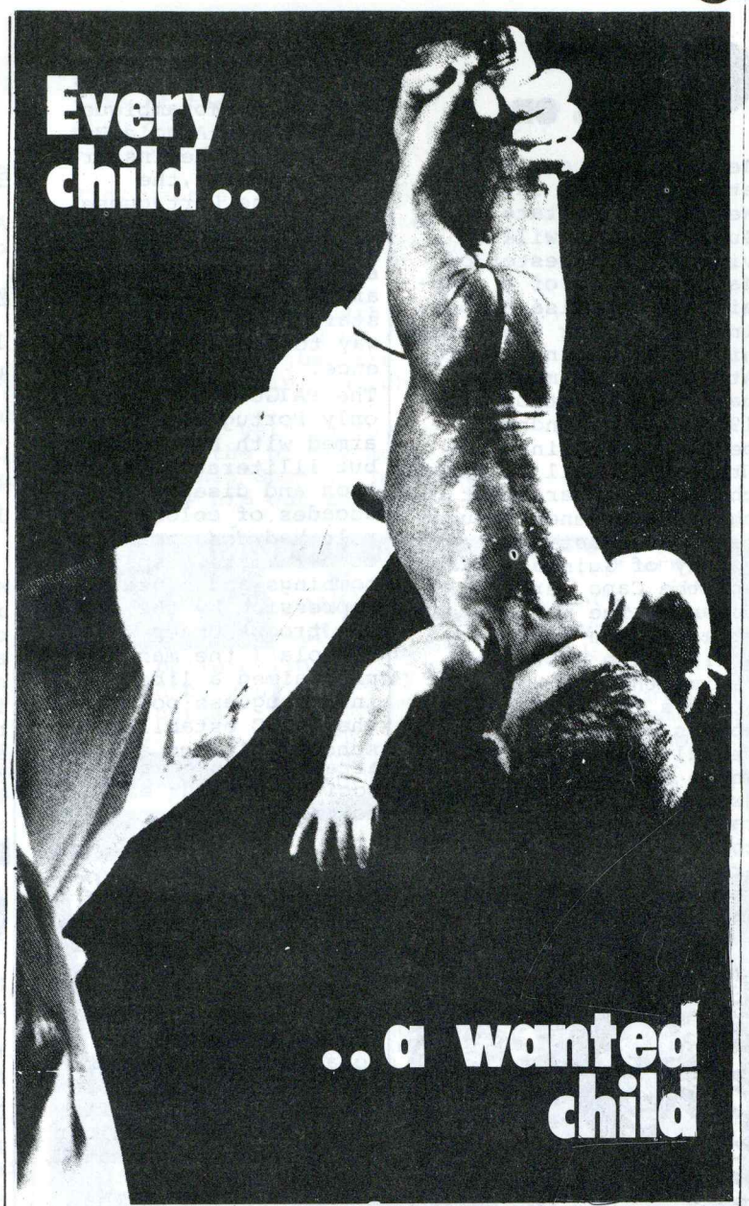
However, you may want to change doctors because you are dissatisfied with your present GP. You are probably not prepared to move house just to do this! Your NHS card states 2 alternatives.
1) You write to the executive council , enclosing a card and the council finds you a doctor. This takes at least 14 days and you could end up in a worse situation.
2) You get the written consent of your old GP and the new one to a transfer.

## Touting

This is not as easy as it seems. Many GPs are reluctant to accept new patients already registered in the area. It's against medical etiquette, it might seem like touting for business. If you persevere beyond the receptionist you may be able to speak to your prospective GP on the phone, or even see him, to ask to be put on his list. You should make it clear that your request is quite reasonable and that you're not likely to be calling him out at 3am.
If you live in a middle class area of the city your choice of doctor may be considerable. However, some areas are still well before their quota of doctors to patients. Your prospective doctor may already have his lists closed, as he will already be dealing with up to 4,000 patients.

## Also

Also received:
Studies on Hysteria by Sigmund Freud and Joseph Breuer.
Penguin. 70p




## BPAS opens in Manchester

THE BRITISH Pregnancy Advisory Service opened its Manchester branch in Bourway House, Hilton Street on April 29.

BPAS is a charitable trust set up in 1967 to help women within the terms of the 1968 Abortion Act. The organisation has many branches throughout the country and now has three nursing homes in Liverpool, Brighton and Birmingham. It exists to help women who think they may be pregnant. They do a free urine test (early morning sample at least 41 days after first day of last period), and they provide a counselling service for women who wish to discus their pregnancy.

If a woman wants a termination the trained counsellor will discus it with her and the woman can then see a doctor who will decide whether she has sufficient grounds under the Abortion Act.

If a termination is possible, BPAS will arrange it; the cost in their own nursing homes is usually £51, tho' if a pregnancy is advanced the cost may be higher as the operation is more difficult.

The doctor can also offer advice on contraception. The branch in Birmingham runs contraception clinics, supported by the local authority. They also arrange vasectomy (male sterilisation).

After BPAS opens, the free pregnancy testing at the Women's Centre at 218 Upper Brook St will stop.

BPAS tel: 061-236 7777

# Cabral lives on

Members of the liberation movement in the West African state of Guinea-Bissau will be visiting Manchester on May 2 as part of a campaign to mobilise support in Britain for the recognition of the new state. At an earlier meeting back in the autumn of 1971 eleven hundred people packed into the Free Trade Hall in Manchester to hear about the independence struggle of the West African colony of Guinea-Bissau and the Cape Verde Islands. The man who spoke spoke of the fight against the Portuguese regime, the last of the world's major colonial powers, was Amilcar Cabral. He was the man whose importance far exceeded the tiny geographical area of his country, being considered the leading African revolutionary theorist and practioner.

PAIGC soldier

His inspiration gave courage to the other liberation movements fighting in Portuguese colonies in Africa : Frelimo in Mozambique and MPLA in Angola. But most of all he inspired his own party, the PAIGC. The Portuguese dictatorship refused all requests for independence, so in 1963 the armed struggle was started as the only way to secure independence.

The PAIGC fought not only Portuguese troops armed with NATO weapons, but illiteracy, malnutrition and disease that decades of colonial rule had done nothing to alleviate. Despite bombings and brutal repression by the colonial troops under General Spinola ( the man who is proclaimed a liberal(!) in Portuguese politics) the PAIGC established schools, clinics and attempted to create a society without exploitation.

Despite many years of suffering and setbacks, more and more territory passed under the control of PAIGC. On many occasions the Portuguese regime attempted to squash the movement by killing the leader. In February 1973, they finally succeeded. Amilcar Cabral was assassinated, but the liberation struggle based on the popular support and participation of the population continued.

In September 1973 the Independent State of Guinea-Bissau was declared and elections held throughout the liberated areas. Already over ninety countries have given recognition to the PAIGC as leader of an independent state. Although Portuguese troops are still present they are isolated in a few towns and scattered garrisons. Britain although quick to recognise the militar junta in Chile has refused to recognise the new government in Guinea-Bissau. Britain has large investments in Portugal and the colonies.

On 2 May at 8pm there will be a big meeting to which all are invited. It will be at The Hall Peel Building (university of Salford), The Crescent, Salford - opposite the Fire Station.

# Boycott the bakeries: Bake your bread

Soda Bread

A recipe for bread which does not need yeast.

WHITE

1½ lb plain flour

½pt sour milk (or fresh milk, but then add 1 teasp cream of tartar to flour)

1 teasp bicarb of soda

1 teasp salt

Mix all dry ingredients in basin and make well in centre. Add milk to make a thick dough. The dough should be slack but not too wet. With floured hands turn onto flat surface and form into circle about 1½ in. thick. Put on baking sheet, making large cross on top with knife - so it cooks right through Bake for about 40 mins at gas 5 or electric 375 - 400f.

BROWN

as above but use

1 lb plain white flour

½ lb whole wheat flour

slightly more milk

The bread tastes good, is quick to make and cheap.

# GRIM giggles in Piccadilly

Manchester's commercial radio came on the air this month and immediately broke the promises made by Brian Young, director general of the Independent Broadcasting Authority. "What is coming," Mr Young said last year at a meeting of the Local Radio Association, "is not just the round of pop music and plugs." Apart from half-hourly news flashes, that's exactly what we got. And most of the plugs came predictably from some of the biggest shareholders in the station- the Bolton Evening News (11%), Quick's, the Ford dealers (8%), the Rochdale Observer (4%), Granada TV (8%) and the Bolton &Wigan & Oldham Co-ops (6%). Radio Grim (Greater Manchester Independent Radio) arrived with the usual inane patter from a bunch of giggly DJs - the hallmark of the pirate radio that managing director Philip Birch used to run in London. The London bias is even more strongly recognisable in the news bulletins which are syndicated from London Broadcasting, the all-news capital station. The local news coverage is thin and patchy - also contrary to IBA policy

As Free Press pointed out two years ago, Radio Grim failed to consult the people of Manchester before it announced itself in a last-minute advertisin campaign which cost £35,000

When the IBA took over its radio job of dishing out contracts, the chairman said that the prime aim was to select companies able to create self-supporting radio organisation "capable of providing a useful and entertaining service to suit the needs and opportunities of their transmission area." If Radio Grim fails to achieve this, its 3-year contract may not be renewed at the end of one year. If you don't like what they'r doing tell them - and tell the IBA at 70 Brompton Road, London SW3.

Otherwise you can alwa have a few words with Mr Birch as he cruises round Manchester in hi new Jaguar TLY 261.

PS. No wonder Grim is short on local news. I doesn't subscribe to Free Press. Even Capit Radio in London has a Freep sub.

## Ringroad rot sets in

Manchester council have finally recognised the disasterous effects of the proposed inner ring road. With 580 firms threatened and only 20% (116) of these likely to survive, about 10,000 people will be thrown out of work. (See Freep 16). So the council have appointed an "industrial development officer" to try and stop the rot. He will find that another 60% of those 116 will probably want to move out of the city. This has been the pattern so far in development areas. It is unlikely, however, that his work will be of much value as the job is already being done by the NW Industrial Development Association.

The real issue about the inner ring road - that it will do little to ease traffic congestion- has been avoided once again. At peak periods parts of it will be at full capacity and other roads, like Deansgate, will be taking up to double the amount of traffic they can handle. This is what Selnec(now GMT) said itself.

A far more sensible way of saving the jobs is to stop the road and improve the public transport system. It's about time that some more councillors had the guts to challenge the city motorway schemes. They would, after all, only be reiterating what the House Commons Expenditure Committee said last year about reexamining all urban road plans which have not reached the contract stage.

## Bum scoop

Evening News readers who have noticed the sudden increase in tit exposure on page 3 will be alarmed to know that this is just the start of a brash new policy by natty managing director Hopwood, formerly of the Sun. Word has it that bums will be the next daring scoop in the battle to stop falling circulation.

The News is also planning to lay on some extra entertainment for strollers who enjoy a rest in Spinn[illegible]field next to the jokily named Vigilante statue. Next year people will have to gaze at Lookers showroom, now owned by the News, being turned into an 8 storey block plus basement. Since the paper is only supposed to be staying in the Deansgate offices for ten 10 years, is this property speculation or reclamation? Answers on a post card to the editor c/o the BBC overseas service, Bangkok.

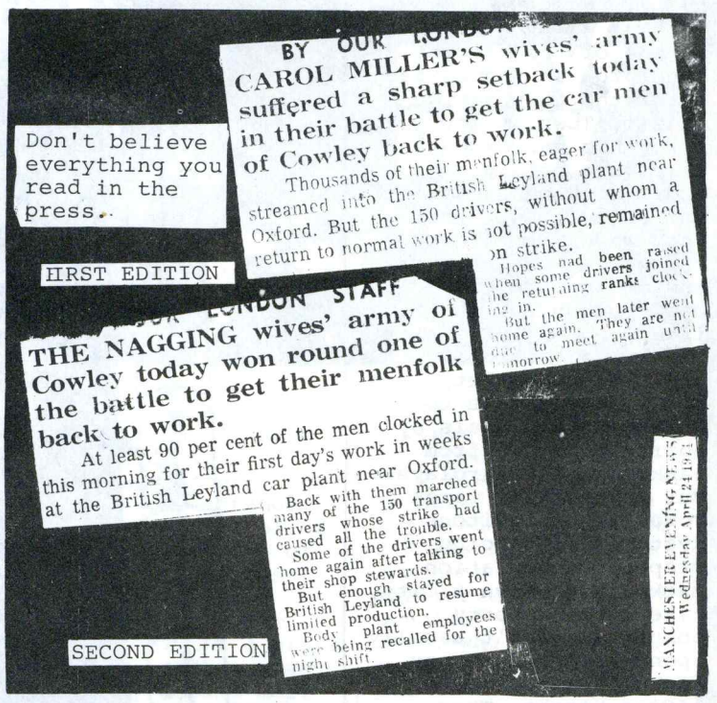
## FREEPOEM

A and B are Special Cats,
Cats of the Special Branch;
When one of them gets on your tail
You have to learn to dance...

They wait at stations, pubs and parks,
And offer five-pound notes
For information, tip-offs and
Incriminating quotes;

Play their games, perhaps you'll win,
Perhaps you'll end up rich;
Though there's just the chance you might be shot
And shovelled in a ditch.

So if a Cat gets on to you
Don't act the bloody mouse;
But kick his Special Testicles
And throw him out the house.

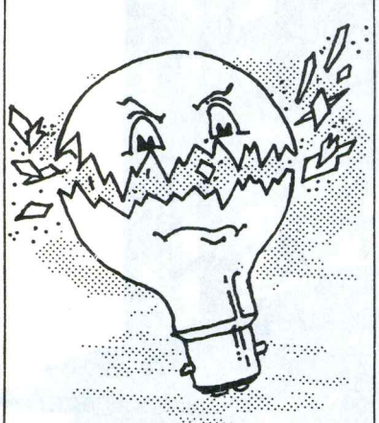

Don't believe everything you read in the press..
HRST EDITION
BY OUR LONDON STAFF
CAROL MILLER'S wives' army suffered a sharp setback today in their battle to get the car men of Cowley back to work.
Thousands of their menfolk, eager for work, streamed into the British Leyland plant near Oxford. But the 150 drivers, without whom a return to normal work is not possible, remained on strike.
Hopes had been raised when some drivers joined the returning ranks clocking in.
But the men later went home again. They are not due to meet again until tomorrow.
THE NAGGING wives' army of Cowley today won round one of the battle to get their menfolk back to work.
At least 90 per cent of the men clocked in this morning for their first day's work in weeks at the British Leyland car plant near Oxford.
Back with them marched many of the 150 transport drivers whose strike had caused all the trouble.
Some of the drivers went home again after talking to their shop stewards.
But enough stayed for British Leyland to resume limited production.
Body plant employees were being recalled for the night shift.
SECOND EDITION
MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS
Wednesday April 24 1974

Continued from page 3

## Electricity row in Hulme

the row- exhorbitant bills, insufficient information about how to operate the complex central heating system and allegations about inaccurate meters - have still not all been resolved. Much of the tenants' energies were sapped in the fight against the Unfair Rents Act, and the electricity problem took a back seat.

The case of Madeline Hunt started it all off again. Mother of three Mrs Hunt was conditionally discharged after pleading guilty to "abstracting" electricity. She got into arrears after her meter had been broken into 4 times. (once the thief was caught and that bill was waived and on another occasion the SS paid the lost money.)



Finally Norweb cut off the supply and demanded the full £106 before they would reconnect. SS offered to pay £40 and deduct £2 a week from her benefit but Norweb didn't agree. The charge arose after Mrs Hunt reconnected the supply because she was unable to manage with feeding and washing the kids. And just to make sure she couldn't get any more the gas board cut the supply from the outside as well.

Mrs Hunt's case has been taken up by an action group, backed by the Claimants Union, and the Hulme Tenants Society. Of the 27 families who have been cut off, some have been without electricity for more than two years. In some cases the social services department has provided calor gas equipment, but this works out more expensive and doesn't provide hot water for baths. In the past it has been normal policy for Norweb to allow tenants to run up quite high bills before they suddenly send a red bill giving them seven days warning of a cut off. The tenants society have now established a new procedure where tenants are first of all sent a reminder note about their arrears. The society is also pressing for a collection period shorter than the present quarterly system - which means that large sums of money often accumulate in the meters. The society are negotiating with Norweb for an end to all cut offs, and for those who have no electricity to be reconnected. Part of this policy could include an arrangement with the social security whereby the SS pay a reconnection fee and then deduct a weekly amount from the benefit to clear the arrears. Most people in arrears are on the SS and often can't afford to pay the high bills. The SS have agreed to pay the reconnection fee in some cases but, as usual, these sort of cases are treated with their famous "discretion."

# TOWN & CITY TAKE-OVER

## How the property men keep their high-rise profits

TOWN & CITY Properties, the biggest property speculators in Manchester with assests nationally of over £550m, was recently on the stock market's list of companies which might go bust. With more than £50m tied up in city centre schemes, Town & City shares had plunged from a high of 115p in 1973/4 to 33p at the beginning of April. Developments at risk included the vastly lucrative shopping and office complexes being built on both sides of Market Street.

### BACK-FIRED

As one of the biggest landlords in Manchester, after the Corporation itself, Town & City got into this parlous state through a policy of short-sighted greed. The rot began to set in last year when Town & City cashed in on the back end of the property boom by buying up firms like Central & District which had originally started the Market Place site. It was able to finance these deals by borrowing money from banks (mainly Barclays). But as interest rates rose, the iniquitous system of financing property speculation back-fired. Town & City, like most property companies, don't usually spend their own money to build speculative office blocks. They borrow from institutions like pension funds and insurance companies or banks. The interest repayments are then more than off-set by high rents.

### FORTUNES

In this way a few men have been able to make huge fortunes in the business by gutting city centres and raising concrete piles of offices which often stand empty while their values soars. At the same time, the far more urgent need for building decent homes has taken second place.

Local authorities have worked hand in hand with the speculators. In Manchester the old council agreed to invest £1.5m in the £26m Market Street plan in order to grab a cut of the profits.

Despite the fall in the property market, the men at the top who control these vast, unaccountable empires, are still well-cushioned against the hard times.

Town & City chairman Barry East has 3.4m shares in the company- an investment that has risen in value from £336,712 to a high last year of £3.8m. Even with the dramatic fall in share prices he still has a nice nest egg worth £1.1m. Two of the 19 directors of the company were paid £13,250 last year - compared with an average salary of £1,363 among the 405 employees. And, of course, the company paid its debts to the Tory Party, like all good speculators, to the tune of £4,597 in the last two years.

### STRIPPER

Some of Town & City's cash problems have been resolved by the take-over of Sterling Guarantee Trust, headed by asset-stripper whizz kid Jeffrey Sterling. He will now become Town & City's vice-chairman and managing director.

Sterling, aged 39, built up the assets of his company from £1 million to £25 million in five years by buying up firms, streamling their organisation and then selling them off at a

Developments in Manches

| Location |
| --- |
| St Peter's Square |
| Market Place |
| Market Street North |
| Market Street temporary shops |
| Booth Street |
| Bank of England King Street |
| Market Cross |
| St Mary's Parsonage |

TOTAL Town & City deve of building projects r example of how the val and shops were estima sure they get the prim let at a new record re buyer , incidentally, about £20 a sq ft, T &

nice profit with a development deal on the property. In other words with a bit of cosmetic tinkering, Sterling was able to make big profits - without incurring the sort of debts which lumbered Town & City. Of all the parasitic people in the property business, Sterling and his ilk are the most

right to create more cash to "build up his assets", as the financial papers put it.

## MONSTROUS

This means of course that Town & City will continue to have scant regard for the social needs of people who

Jeffrey Sterling

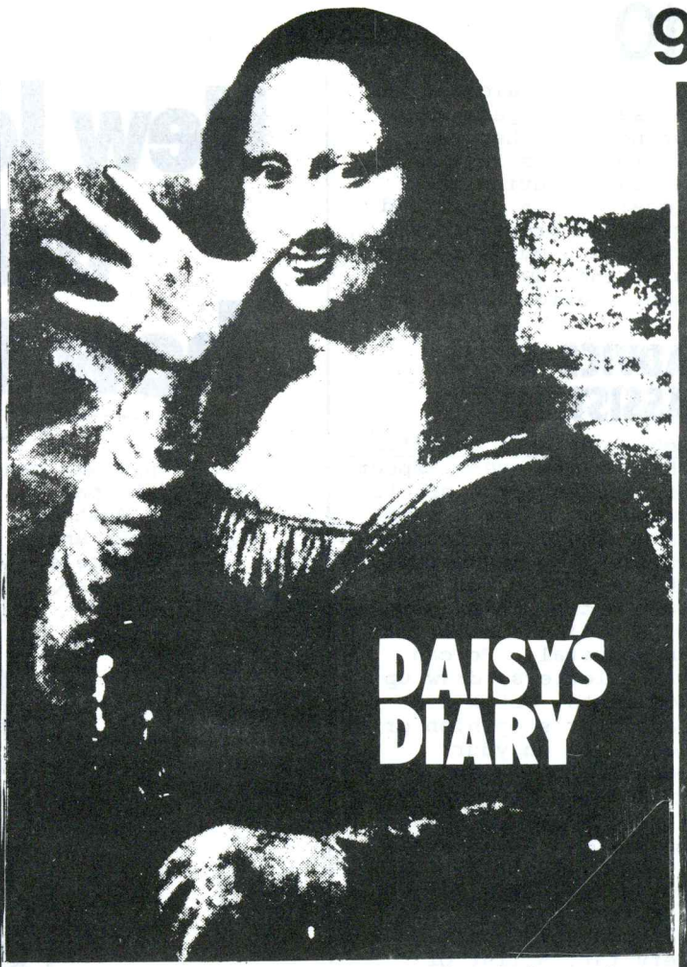
unnecessary and unproductive. Instead of Town & City's policy of selling properties and then leasing the building back, Sterling in his new job will probably sell developments out-

have to put up with their monstrous office blocks. Building up your assets means making as much money as possible and nothing else. That's what Town & City are all about.

wn & City Properties and its subsidiaries.

| | Size | Cost |
|---|---|---|
| s & Shops | 123,000 sq ft | |
| s & Shops | 500,000 sq ft | £15,000,000 |
| s, shops, rk, market, | 1,500,000 sq ft | £35,000,000 |
| | 22,000 sq ft | |
| s | 34,471 sq ft | £400,000 |
| s | 60,000 sq ft | |
| | 243,000 sq ft | |
| s | 64,500 sq ft | £900,000 |

ost about £60 million out of £170 million worth nished, under construction or planned. As an e projects increase, the Market Place offices in 1969 compared with £15m today. And T & C make ne floor of the office block in Booth Street was year for Manchester of £2.50 per sq ft. The l-fated Cedar Holdings. With rents in London at ect a few more stiff rises in their rents.



# DAISY'S DIARY

Jack Jackman, the director of Manchester Airport, hasn't been feeling himself of late. Last month, for example, he attended a long and well-oiled lunch for a group of servile air correspondents at the opening of the £5m extensions. At a press briefing Mr Jackman suddenly became most distraught and proceeded to shower abuse on mild-mannered Bernard Spilsbury from the News, accusing him of trying to sabotage the second runway plans with a load of "enviromental shit." Mr Jackman, to the delight of the bleary-eyed gathering, concluded his remarks with an abrupt V sign.

Bob Stones, the former Manchester housing architect responsible for the "mistake" of Hulme, has found himself another game to play. He is currently spending a £35,000 grant over two years at Manchester University school of architecture. The cash was provided by the Otis Elevator Company for research into housing access. Since Hulme has now been officially described as a major planning blunder, the question is, will Stones do it again?

Richard Scholes, the Preston solicitor arrested on April 22 in connection with a £2.4 million land deal in Hertfordshire, is reported to have used 2 Rolls Royces until the petrol crisis earlier this year. Mr Scholes' sister Kathleen, who lives with him on their exclusive Holme Island near Grange-over-Sands, did not apparently have the same scruples. On March 7 Miss Scholes was fined £100 for keeping petrol on the island without a licence. The court at Ulverston was told that Miss Scholes had driven a Rolls Royce round ten garages in nine days, collecting 588 gallons. Miss Scholes later got a licence to keep 1,500 gallons for her motor boat.

Manchester planning committee are getting round to correcting the many cock-ups in the grandiose design of the £1.5 million Royal Northern College of Music. They have approved a plan to build an extension for a temporary rest room and toilet, the lack of which elementary facilities caused such a rumble recently.

Keep snubbin'

# New legal aid act-and how to use it

A NEW LEGAL aid act was passed this year which brings together the various laws relating to legal advice and legal aid in civil and criminal proceedings. This is a guide to show what the law means and who is eligible to use it.

## ADVICE & ASSISTANCE

Legal advice & assistance

This covers every aspect of a solicitor's practice except work for a court case. The solicitor can advise you anywhere: in his office, at a Law Centre, in prison, at a police station or in hospital. He can write letters, draw up documents, get a barrister's opinion or negotiate on your behalf. Advice and assistance is given up to the value of £25. As a local solicitor recently recently tried to charge Ireep £15 for two letters, this £25 probably won't go very far. A list of solicitors can be got from the Law Society, Citizens' Advice Bureaux or the public library.

## WHO CAN GET IT

Who is eligible

You can get legal advice if your weekly income does not exceed £24.50 a week or if you are on supplementary benefit or family income supplement. If your weekly income is more than £12.50, however, you will have to make a contribution to the solicitor's costs. Solicitors can also deduct a cut from any money or property that they recover on your behalf. If you don't qualify at all for legal advice, solicitors charge their time at a premium: about £3 for half and hour.

## CRIMINAL CASES

Legal aid in criminal cases

This should be granted to anyone who can't afford to pay for the defence costs of preparing a case and having a solicitor ( or barrister)present it in court. It should also be granted if the court thinks it is "in the interests of justice" to do so.

If there is any doubt about your ability to pay the costs, you should be given the benefit of the doubt.

## HOW TO APPLY

How to apply

Apply as soon as possible and don't just wait until the day of the trial. If you find yourself in court before you have been able to apply, ask the magistrate first. He will either deal with your request on the spot or adjourn the case so you can make your application. There is no legal obligation for the court to tell you that you have the right to apply.

If you are in custody, however, you will be given the necessary forms. (or at least you should be). Otherwise you can go to the court office and get the forms They include a questionnaire about your income and savings because you may well have to make a contribution to the costs. The clerk of the court decides this. Because of the large areas of discretion in the granting of legal aid, it is too often open to abuse. Practice varies widely from court to court. In Manchester the system is grossly overloaded because of the monopoly position held by a few firms of solicitors. And magistrates are notoriously fickle in their arbitrary decisions about whether to grant it or not.

Recent research has shown that the refusal rate in magistrates courts up and down the country varied from an amazing 90% in Bootle to 1% in Carlisle. A large proportion of people who appear in magistrates courts are unrepresented although legally they qualify for legal aid.

## CIVIL CASES

Legal aid for civil cases

This covers everything in a case where someone is involved in legal action against another individual. It includes preperation of a case, representation in court and any negotiations out of court to avoid or end proceedings. It is normally used in the High Court or county courts for cases such as divorce, breach of contract, unlawful arrest damages for personal injuries.

## WHO CAN GET IT

Who is eligible

You must show you have reasonable grounds for taking or defending a case and that your income is within the financial limits set by the act. Your income must not be more than £1,175 a year and your "disposable capital" must not be more than £1,200. Again there are wide areas of discretion: the minimum income level can drop to as low as £700 and the capital to £500. Your income and capital (net figures after deductions like rent, rates, tax, debts etc) is worked out by the Supplementary Benefits Commission. You may be required to make a contribution to the Legal Aid Fund which is used to pay fees for solicitors and barristers if you are above the minimum level. Otherwise, legal aid is free.

But you will not be asked to pay more than a third of your disposable income over £375 and your captial over £250. In other words, if your disposable income in £500, you won't have to pay more than a third of £125.

## TRIBUNALS LEFT OUT

One of the greatest weaknesses of the whole legal aid and advice scheme - apart from the very low minimum income levels and the discretionary system - is that it does not cover preparing a case or presenting it at a tribunal. This affects thousands of people who go before rent tribunals, the Land Tribunal, the supplementary benefit tribunals and several others. Even many lawyers would like tribunals to be included in the legal aid scheme: it would mean they had an even bigger market for their expensive services.

## Riot gas dangers

THE BRITISH ARMY's new riot control agent, CR gas, which was authorised for use in Northern Ireland at the end of last year was first developed by a team of scientists at Salford University. One member of the team was Professor H Suschitzky who lives in Hale. He helped to develop the gas as early as 1962, from derivatives of CR which were prepared as long ago as the 1930's.

At a recent conference Professor Suschitzky was asked if he had deliberately looked for properties in the gas which caused severe watering of the eyes. He replied that his only interest was in the biological effects on the nervous system. The good professor's work, however, like that of many other scientists, did not escape the attention of the men at Britain's chemical defence establishment at Porton

They recognised its full potential -especially as the gas was also described by its authors as a skin irritant. Tests on 150 volunteers at Porton showed that CR causes immediate watering of the eyes and intense pain which lasts for about twenty minutes. The practical effects are that victims have to close their eyes very tightly, and it is difficult to see how people can run away - presumably the desired intention of any riot control agent.

The use of CR gas in Northern Ireland has gone ahead against one of the main recommendations of the Himsworth Committee which commissioned research into the widely used CS gas. The committee said that any riot control agent should be regarded as a drug with a careful procedure laid down for testing it. Yet open publication of reports on CR are still very limited.

Like CS gas, CR is quite indiscriminate in action. In particular it is highly dangerous to the young, old and sick. It has already been admitted that CS is harmful to asthmatics.

The long term use of both gasses are still not known. But that shouldn't worry the British Army. who would hate to see it withdrawn. The great advantage of CR is that it can be dispersed in water cannon - a favourite anti-riot weapon that on the surface looks harmless enough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# GENUINE WHAT'S NEW

## Oil Slick

THE OIL FIX Anti-Report 8 by the Counter Information Services. 60p.

The spiralling cost of oil and petrol is taking an ever-bigger chunk out of peoples' pockets. But for the oil companies, higher prices mean higher profits - and little or no tax for the home country. When the Teheran price deal was fixed in 1971 between the Gulf states and the big oil companies, the cost of oil soared and the companies' profits shot up to new all-time records. The latest round of increases will no doubt be exploited to the same effect by the companies. In their latest anti-report, CIS take us through the labyrinthe of international oil politics and a sordid, dirty story it makes. Apart from the companies' vast powers which allow them to arbitrarily control prices to suit themselves, governments too are accused of negligence and compliance. BP, for example, has not paid any UK income tax for the five years up to 1972 because of the tax it pays to the oil producing countries. The British Government has a 48.2% holding in BP, an investment which has risen in value from £2m in 1914 to £1,016 m in 1974. Yet the government has made no attempt to influence the

policy of BP. "it is apparent," says the report, "that the government has abdicated from all social responsibility with respect to its holding in BP." The US government comes off in an even worse light - as the diplomatic lapdog of the oil cartels. The clarity of this report is a marked improvement on some of the previous ones which sometimes failed to put across simple explanations of complex financial subjects.

## Watch out - there's a Great Gatsby hype about

THE GREAT GATSBY: the movie directed by Jack Clayton & the Penguin reprint (35p) by F Scott Fitzgerald.

With more than its usual slavish support for public relations campaigns, the Press has well and truly hooked itself to the Gatsby-bandwagon. Women are being told to look dizzy and half-witted with red cupid lip gloss and cow eyes; men have to wear wide hats, flash suits and short hair. The make-up and rag trades are having a real field day. Four particular US companies are spending a total of $6 million on their promotions. "Our aim," says Paramount vice-president Charles Glenn, "is to help the picture in a very special way so that the entire country will be 'Gatsbyized'"
Mr Clayton, the director, is denying that he knew anything about the big promotion while he was making the film. If that is so, he must be the most naive of directors, who are not normally known for their commercial innocence. Mr Clayton also claims that he has followed the book closely, which is untrue in substance and detail.
You get the impression that Gatsby was a businessman with only a hint of a shady past and that he pursued Daisy out of an outrageously romantic love. In fact, Fitzgerald shows that Gatsby was indeed involved in crime and prohibition and that Daisy was just the Queen pawn in his crazy ambition. Gatsby, the self-made man of the American dream, was no more than a big-time racketeer who had been able to buy success and status. He reflected the twisted values of corrupt American society in the 20's and foreshadowed the time when the syndicate of crime, big business and politics would erupt like a sceptic ulcer at the Watergate. In the film he comes across as merely a frivolous romantic, as insubstantial as the information about his background. The book on the other hand, is still a piece of beautiful writing - full of sudden humour, great clarity and sharp perc eption of character. If you must go and see the movie, read it first.

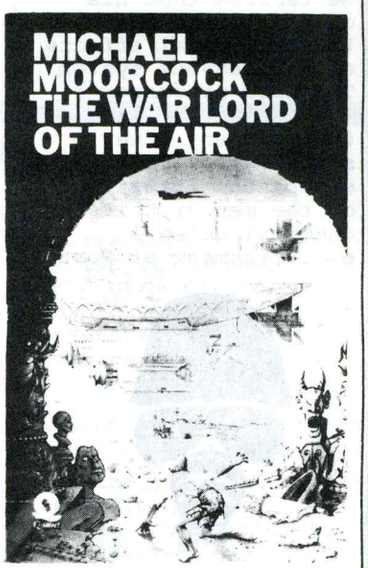
JOHN DOHERTY

## Empire crumbling

THE WARLORD OF THE AIR by Michael Moorcock Quartet 40p

A fine story that portrays a world in which social and technical change have followed a startlingly different course during the 20th century. The world of 1973 is dominated by the traditional Imperial powers while the airship, albeit technically sophisticated, is the most advanced form of transport. Captain Oswald Bastable, 53rd Lancers, is thrust into this strange world from 1902 and initially sees it as a breath-taking confirmation of the noble aims of Empire - until by chance he falls in the hands of the world's revolutionaries. Concentrated in a liberated zone in China, this group, uneasily populated by an aged Lenin and a dashing young Guevara, manage to tap the bottled-up potential for social and technological revolution. Their efforts culminate in the aeroplane, the bomb and a spectacular assault on the reactionary powers. An enjoyable tale which nudges the complacency with which we view the past and future development of a given socio-technical system.

FRED STEWARD




## Funny glass

OTHER DAYS, OTHER EYES by Bob Shaw Pan 35p

This absorbing novel charts the social impact of slow glass, a technological innovation which differs from normal glass in that it only reveals images of scenes to which it was exposed a long time before. All too convincingly, Shaw examines the subtle interplay between the obviously beneficial, the questionable and the unequivocally sinister application to which the material can be put - including a massive bugging conspiracy. Although marred by a section on the 'perfect crime' which is jammed in, the scenario flows well and contains many acute insights.

## Hardy annual

HE SOCIALIST REGISTER 1973
erlin pb £2.00

t is encouraging to see a umper edition of this hardy ocialist annual. More than wice the size of it pred-cessers, the quality is retty good too. Edward hompson reflects on the tate of British marxism, he differences of approach f the 'old' and the 'new' ew Left and many other opics in his lengthy but eadable Open Letter to olakowski. Hilary Rose traces he development of the Claim-nts Union with particular eference to the problems osed by libertarian ideals f "structurelessness" as ell as examining the ifficulties of relation-hips between the CUs and he Marxist left. Murdoch nd Golding analyse the social ole of the mass media while ose, Hambly and Haywood enetrate the science, racism nd ideology nexus. Other rticles cover many topics including a batch on the liberation struggle in S Africa. Altogether a varied and stimulating collection not to be missed by anyone interested in socialist ideas.

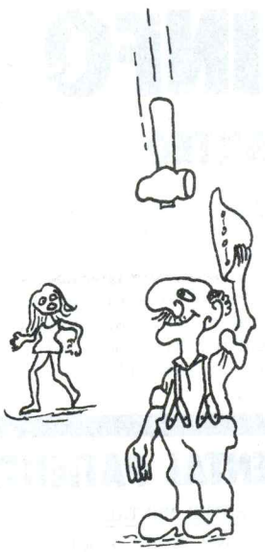
FRED STEWARD

## Work is a killer

THE HAZARDS OF WORK: HOW TO FIGHT THEM by Patrick Kinnersly. Pluto Press 90p

Less than two years ago, Christopher Wright was awarded damages of £15,000 against ICI and £1,000 against the giant tyre firm Dunlop after contracting cancer of the bladder.
This crippling disease is caused by a variety of chemicals in the rubber industry. The most notorious is called Nonox S which was extensively used in the 30's and 40's to stop rubber perishing. It was made by ICI and used at the Dunlop plant at Speke in Liverpool where Mr Wright started work in 1946. The appeal court judge found that ICI actually knew of the danger of Nonox S in 1943, and possibly as 1940. It was not withdrawn until 1949, as hundreds of workers are now finding out.

This sordid example of industry's callous disregard for workers' health is taken from a handbook which



is an indispensible tool for working people in all types of jobs.

It might also help a few doctors who often don't ask about a patient's job when diagnosing the first symptoms of illness.

Hazards at work occur when safety regulations are not observed, when people aren't given adequate protection against and information about dangerous chemicals, dusts and poisons, and when work is unreasonably speeded up by measured day work, piece work and other one-sided productivity deals.

Industry will continue to backpeddle on safety and health issues until the workers themselves take action. Safety costs money but men can easily be replaced. And the factory inspectorate is too under-manned and soft to enforce the existing laws.
After an exhaustive list of hazards - from simple noise stress to lethal diseases like asbestosis - Kinnersly sets out a programme of action for workers and explains how to tackle the complex legal machinery involved. He adds at the end a directory of toxix substances, with their dangers, antidotes etc, which should help people to immediately identify the chemicals they work with. Worth every penny of 90p.

## Galactic gobbledygook

THE EARLY ASIMOV: Vol 2 by Isaac Asimov. Panther 35p

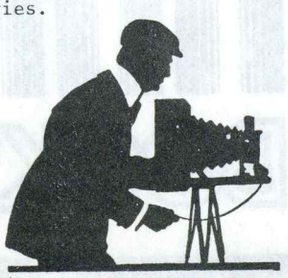
Contains one of Asimov's earliest stories, previously uncollected in book form. "The Imaginary" contains the seeds of psychohistory which Seldon was later to develop with devastating precision in "Foundation." "The Little Man in the Subway" and "Legal Rites" represent a ghastly departure into ghostly fantasy from which Asimov luckily returned unscathed.The author's retrospective comments tend to be more fascinating that the stories themselves. In particular, a rather interesting light is shed on the influence of the late J W Campbell on the young Asimov. Campbell's conviction of the racial supremacy of the white American assumed a less down-to-earth dimension in his insistence that SF stories demonstrate the superiority of human vis-a-vis other galactic intelligences. Asimov clashed with Campbell over this when he was writing "Homo Sol" and henceforward sought a smoother path. The result: that notable feature of the later Foundation trilogy where the galaxy is populated solely by humanoids, a situation that Asimov finds scientifically implausible.

FRED STEWARD

## Fetish ridden

UNDERGROUND FILM by Parker Tyler. Penguin 35p

Books about films are OK as long as you get the chance to see the movies as well. After the demise of the Manchester Film Theatre and the policy of the Aaben in Hulme to have incessant repeats, there isn't much doing round these here parts unless you're in a small film society. In that case most films in this book can be hired in the UK. Having been first printed in 69, there's a lot to catch up on. Unlike the unconventional trends in art, music etc, underground film has never had the recognition it deserves. This has been partly due the monopoly distribution system and partly to the fact that many underground films are tedious, fetish-ridden and poorly made. Tyler tends to concentrate on the aesthetic and technical aspects of his subject, rather than the equally important social background that allowed underground film to develop. But it's a reasonable start for anyone who wants to get into fringe movies.

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# ADS & INFO

## MAY DAY

MAY DAY MARCH: May 4
Start 11am Granby Row.
Organised by AUEW (eng/sect)

## COLLECTIVE

GOLD SEAL COLLECTIVE, a national, alternative distribution group for papers & mags has started again. They are looking for people who travel around to lend a hand. Contact: Dave Howard, Goldseal, Box 7, 31 Bounces Road, London N9 or 01 803 5084.

## MEETINGS

CONFERENCE against racism and fascism - organised by the Manchester Anti-fascist Committee. Renold Theatre, UMIST, May 18 10am -6pm. Speakers include Bernard Panter (engineers union) Darcus Howe (editor of Race Today. Inquiries to M/c A-F Committee, c/o 27 Thatch Leach, Chadderton, Oldham, Lancs.

SUPPORT the liberation struggle in Guinea-Bissau. Members of the PAIGC will be at the Peel Building University of Salford, May 2 at 8pm.

## LEGAL ADVICE

LEGAL ADVICE. Free help with legals problems re landlords, faulty goods, SS, inhury claims, motor accidents, prosecutions, planning permissions etc., 178 Oxford Road, Open 12.45pm to 8pm Monday - Friday. Call in or phone 273 4575

## CLAIMANTS

Claimants Union advice centre 2 Gretney Walk, Moss Side district centre Tuesday and Thursdays 1.30 - 3.30pm.

## FLY AWAY

RETURN FLIGHT, London - New York. Out 2nd June, back 2nd November. £62 plus £75 fuel. Box No.12.

## DANCE

NORTHERN DANCE THEATRE : a new programme of classical and modern ballets at the Garrick Theatre, Altrincham. From Sunday April 28

## CENSORSHIP

NORTH WEST section of the National Co-ordinating Committee Against Censorship is holding a meeting on May 8 at 7.30pm. Topics: a speakers' corner for Manchester; film and press censorship.

## PEACE

THREE PACIFISTS (PPU members) hope to form an active peace group in the Radcliffe/Prestwich/Bury area. Anyone interested write to Steve 252 Bolton Road, Radcliffe, Manchester.

## WANTED

PREMISES wanted to rent for silk-screen workshop to operate on the lines of Moss Side Press. South Manchester area/telephone preferred. Basement or garage would be suitable. Ring Moss Side Press at 226 7115 or 225 9878 .

## MENTAL PATIENTS

MANCHESTER MENTAL PATIENTS Union now meets regularly at 178 Oxford Road, Manchester 2 Every Saturday at 3pm. Further info from Mchr MPU, c/o Estelle Beninson, 2 York Avenue, Prestwich.

## HOLIDAY

ALTERNATIVE university/ workshop/holiday in Galloway in end June to early Sept being organised by the Laurieston Hall People Centre, home for 12 adults and 9 kids in SW Scotland. Write if you or your group are interested to Laurieston Hall, Castle Douglas, Kirkcudbrights, Scotland.

## WOMEN

WOMENS LIBERATION CENTRE Free pregnancy testing Sat. 10-12pm. Advice on abortion, contraception, -.S.S, nurseries, battered wives etc. 218 Upper Brook Street,Mchr 13. 273 2287

Women's Lib disco: May 4 8pm. Withington Town Hall.


Manchester Poly[illegible]ic Oh yeah !

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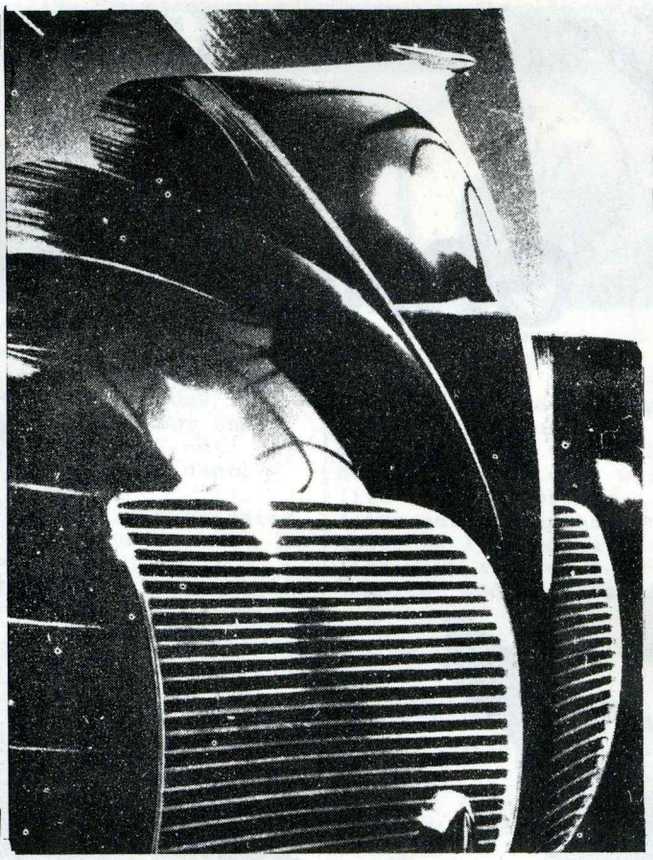
# BLACK SEDAN

## Out Just Out & Almost Nearly Out

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## Out Just Out & Almost Nearly Out


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